
NEWS RELEASE

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SENATOR GREGG CALLS ON BUSH ADMINISTRATION TO RELEASE SUPPLY FROM NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today joined several of his Senate colleagues in calling on President Bush to order a release from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve. In a letter to the President, the Senators cited brutally cold winter temperatures, the steady increase of the cost of energy, and a shortage in the fuel supply as reasons necessitating this important release.

Senator Gregg stated, "New Hampshire is experiencing a severely cold winter and it is essential that affordable home heating oil is readily available for New Hampshire residents. The continued instability in Venezuela and the possibility of conflict in Iraq have driven oil prices higher and many people are finding it difficult to afford the high cost of heating their homes. I would urge the President to release some of the Northeast Home Heating Oil reserves to increase supply and lower the cost of available heating energy."

The eleven Senators stated in the letter, "High energy prices caused by a shortage of distillate fuel are causing significant economic strain across the Northeast. Given the current economic situation, small businesses, families and states cannot afford further increases in distillate fuel prices. A release from the Northeast Heating Oil Reserve would provide significant relief to the region and prevent the crisis that occurred during the 2000 winter. We urge you to release distillate from the Reserve."

A copy of the letter is attached.

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